

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 7, 2026 to APRIL 29, 2026

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JULY 29, 2026

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2026

A. Establish and maintain a system for the proper collection, transportation and processing of waste dry cell mercuric oxide and rechargeable batteries for purchasers in this State;

B. Clearly inform each purchaser that intends to use these batteries of the prohibition on disposal of dry cell mercuric oxide and rechargeable batteries and of the available systems for proper collection, transportation and processing of these batteries;

C. Identify a collection system through which mercuric oxide and rechargeable batteries must be returned to the manufacturer or to a manufacturer-designated collection site; and

D. Include the cost of proper collection, transportation and processing of the waste batteries in the sales transaction or agreement between the manufacturer and any purchaser.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 609

H.P. 683 - L.D. 1054

An Act to Amend Certain Definitions in the Laws Governing Conservation Easements

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 33 MRSA §476, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 395, §3, is amended to read:

1. Conservation easement. "Conservation easement" means a nonpossessory interest of a holder in real property imposing limitations or affirmative obligations the purposes of which include retaining or protecting natural, scenic or open space values of real property; assuring its availability for agricultural, forest, recreational or open space use; protecting natural resources; ~~or~~ maintaining or enhancing air or water quality of real property; or preserving the historical, architectural, archaeological or cultural aspects of real property.

Sec. 2. 33 MRSA §476, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 395, §3, is amended to read:

A. A governmental body empowered to hold an interest in real property under the laws of this State or the United States, including a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State; or

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 610

S.P. 505 - L.D. 1216

An Act to Improve Behavioral Health Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention Services

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §1001, sub-§4-C is enacted to read:

4-C. 9-8-8. "9-8-8" means the telephone number designated as the universal telephone number within the United States for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the 9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline.

Sec. 2. 34-B MRSA §1001, sub-§4-D is enacted to read:

4-D. 9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline. "9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline" means a national network of local crisis services that provide free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis, behavioral health crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States. The 9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline, or its successor, is the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system maintained by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use under the federal Public Health Service Act, 42 United States Code, Section 290bb-36c.

Sec. 3. 34-B MRSA c. 3, sub-c. 3, art. 2, headnote is amended to read:

ARTICLE 2

CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Sec. 4. 34-B MRSA §3621, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 349, Pt. H, §21, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 34-B MRSA §3625 is enacted to read:

§3625. Crisis intervention support

The department shall establish crisis intervention support services in all 16 counties. These services must be community-based programs that provide counseling, consultation, evaluation, treatment, referral, education and training services, delivered by a crisis intervention team, including mobile crisis intervention teams. The crisis intervention support services must include:

1. Emergency room services. Crisis intervention and psychiatric emergency services based in a hospital emergency room;

2. Outreach services. Outreach services and crisis intervention beyond the hospital setting; and

3. Telephone hotline services. A community-based telephone crisis intervention hotline, which must

coordinate with the 9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline, offering counseling, consultation, evaluation, treatment and referral services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 611

H.P. 1063 - L.D. 1609

An Act Regarding Background Checks for Medical Cannabis Providers

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2421-A, sub-§16, ¶B, as amended by PL 2023, c. 679, Pt. A, §3, is amended to read:

B. If required by the office pursuant to this chapter, the applicant has submitted to a criminal history record check pursuant to section 2425-B;

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §2423-A, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2019, c. 501, §12 and PL 2021, c. 669, §5, is further amended to read:

4. Long-term care facility. A qualifying patient may designate a long-term care facility to assist with the qualifying patient's medical use of cannabis if that use is consistent with the facility's policy and is pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph F-1, subparagraph (2). If a long-term care facility is designated, the facility shall complete the registration process with the department and obtain a registration certificate for the facility. For a long-term care facility to be issued a registration certificate, staff persons of the facility who will be assisting a qualifying patient with the patient's medical use of cannabis in accordance with this chapter must be at least 21 years of age, must submit to a criminal history record check pursuant to section 2425-B and may not have been convicted of a disqualifying drug offense. The long-term care facility and the staff of the facility may not cultivate cannabis plants for the patient.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §2423-A, sub-§10, ¶A, as repealed and replaced by PL 2019, c. 331, §13 and amended by PL 2021, c. 669, §5, is amended to read:

A. A cannabis testing facility that meets the requirements of this subsection and any rules adopted under paragraph D and submits to a criminal history record check pursuant to section 2425-B may receive and possess samples from qualifying patients, caregivers, dispensaries and manufacturing facilities to provide testing for the cannabinoid profile and potency of the samples and for contaminants in the samples, including but not limited to mold, mildew, heavy metals, plant regulators and

illegal pesticides. For the purposes of this paragraph, "plant regulator" has the same meaning as in Title 7, section 604, subsection 26.

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §2423-F, sub-§8, ¶B, as repealed and replaced by PL 2019, c. 331, §17 and amended by PL 2021, c. 669, §5, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

The department may not issue a registry identification card to an officer or director or assistant of a registered manufacturing facility or person authorized to engage in cannabis extraction using inherently hazardous substances who has been convicted of a disqualifying drug offense. The department shall conduct a criminal history record check pursuant to section 2425-B of each person, officer or director ~~or assistant~~ subject to this subsection on an annual basis.

Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §2425-A, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2023, c. 679, Pt. A, §§10 and 11, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

The department shall conduct a criminal history record check pursuant to section 2425-B for any applicant for a registry identification card, except that an assistant is not required to submit to a criminal history record check. The criminal history record check is valid for 2 years from the date it was conducted, regardless of the person's employment status. Except as provided in subsection 3-A, the department may not issue a registry identification card to an applicant who is not permitted under this chapter to have a disqualifying drug offense.

Sec. 6. 22 MRSA §2425-A, sub-§3-A, as amended by PL 2021, c. 387, §8 and c. 669, §5, is further amended to read:

3-A. Criminal history record check for caregivers administering medical cannabis on school grounds. The department shall request a criminal history record check pursuant to section 2425-B for a caregiver designated under section 2423-A, subsection 1, paragraph F-1, subparagraph (4), except for a caregiver who is a parent, a legal guardian or a person having legal custody of the qualifying patient. The department may not issue a registry identification card to an applicant who is not permitted to have a disqualifying drug offense or who would be denied an approval, credential, certification, authorization or renewal under Title 20-A, section 6103 or 13011 based on that criminal history record check.

~~The criminal history record check requested under this subsection must include criminal history record information obtained from the Maine Criminal Justice Information System established in Title 16, section 631 and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The following provisions apply.~~